

# NAVY DAYS

NO. 7

Winter 2002

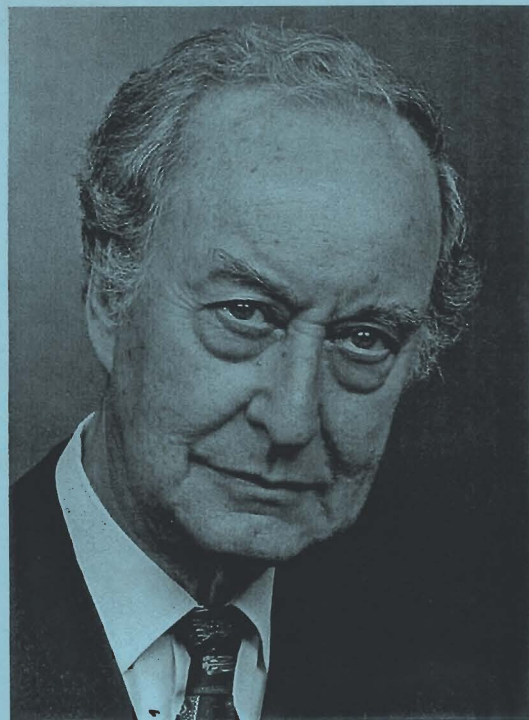


Fred Vintner

In the last issue of Navy Days, we celebrated the acquisition of a substantial donation of shows from abroad. At the time Navy Days went to press little work had been done on the material available. It was also suggested that copies would have reached the library by October; regrettably, they didn't, but even better news can be announced.

For many Navy Lark aficionados an early log circulated with various scribbles over a typed text. This database contained various notes and details which have been copied by all 'Lark' collectors, unaware of their significance. One such entry was: (DJS). In blissful ignorance it was believed this might be a note relating to a studio technician(?), or archive where the tape ended up. However, the owner of the initials (DJS) has contacted us and enlightened us fully about that early log, who wrote it AND what those annotations meant! Furthermore, the enthusiast has now made a significant donation of material to the Society's library which will be available to all members in February 2002

Jeremy Stevenson was able to record every episode of The Embassy Lark on reel to reel in the 60s. Copies of his Embassy Lark collection of shows is now in Douglas's hands and available for the first time in excellent sound quality. If like me you have managed to hear the occasional broadcast, but the sound quality was fatiguing, the show did not get a fair hearing; this is your chance to sample a very worthy sister show to The Navy Lark and listen to it in mellifluous mono. Show 1 is the ONLY broadcast which might be disappointing sound-wise, but Jeremy's subsequent 41 programmes are aurally effortless and joy filled. This particular gift is not only wonderfully generous but it provides us with an opportunity to really appreciate another facet of Laurie Wyman's inspired writing. My previous experiences with Embassy Lark shows were very



Best Wishes,  
*Frank Thornton*

fractured and the material appeared not to develop personalities to the same strength as the Navy Lark. Having listened to every show one after another just before Christmas I can honestly say the material is great fun. A cohort of 4 actors Derek Francis, Frank Thornton, Francis de Wolfe and Charlotte Mitchell are ably supported by a supporting cast which changes each season. Wonderfully entertaining events take place as personalities ripen and you will find yourself chuckling rather loudly once the journey through Tratvia begins. Stalwarts from Troutbridge can be heard on 3 programmes, and without doubt Ronnie Barker steals the show on one occasion! To help your listening pleasure a complete log has been created using Jeremy's Radio Times archive, along with his audio archive. The published work (in this newsletter) is a first draft. Spellings might be wrong, further details will need to be added. I intend to summarise the storyline for each show and add more details later. If you note any inconsistencies or mistakes, do let me know! If you are tempted to borrow the tapes and listen I would urge you to take the shows in chronological order, it not only makes for easier listening but really generates a sense of place.





# NAVY LARK

Appreciation Society

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## UseFUL eLectronic addReSSes:

Navy Lark web_site	<a href="http://www.navylark.org.uk">www.navylark.org.uk</a>
Navy Lark bulletin board	<a href="http://www.NavyLark.f2s.com">www.NavyLark.f2s.com</a>

you can acquire an eMail address at Navy Lark by registering:  
eg [flags@NavyLark.f2s.com](mailto:flags@NavyLark.f2s.com)



## THE ROYAL MAIL / CONSIGNIA

Apologies to everyone caught up in a 'scam' the Post Office perpetrated on the last Navy Days mailing. I went to my local Post Office, who weighed the envelopes and told me what postage to pay for each mailing. It transpired that for many of you, your local sorting office decided that the postage paid was insufficient. I can only apologise to those affected by these events and hope that the same problem doesn't occur again. In fact the worst case of over charging was levied on Mr Frank Thornton whose local Christmas fund must have been doubled by his contribution! And for one member it was cheaper for us to post out a new magazine and leave the original sitting in Consignia. Once again sorry to everyone involved. My Local PO can't refund your pennies but they have apologised for the inconvenience caused.

## CHRISTMAS BOOK TOKENS?

If any of you are keen to use those Christmas book tokens before you lose them, we can thoroughly recommend these 2 publications. The biography is a must have tome as it contains a wealth of information not available elsewhere.

The paperback version of 'All I Ever Wrote' is marvellous value and as you read the pages it is very obvious that Mr Barker's talent is not just in delivering lines superbly, but also being able to create them with artistry and craftsmanship.

### The Authorised Biography

Foreword by DAVID JASON

Ronnie  
Barker

Bob McCabe

### RONNIE BARKER

"It's no wonder  
millions of viewers  
welcomed him  
into their homes"  
*Daily Mail*

'All I Ever Wrote'  
The Complete Works



# Back in the Ward Room



## The Navy Lark

04.12.1959	Johnson Finds Treasure
08.04.1960	Portarneyland Fishing Limit
02.11.1960	In Portsmouth for a Refit
23.11.1960	Mutiny Aboard Troutbridge
26.01.1962	Mr Phillips Gets Engaged
29.11.1963	Chasing the Kepac
11.07.1965	Back in the Muck
01.08.1965	The Povey's Move House
08.08.1965	Capt. Povey Reports Sick
06.11.1966	Pertwee and the Tratvian Beer
10.11.1968	The Anti Submarine Missile Launcher
17.11.1968	Sub Conductor Phillips
24.11.1968	South Kawowan Summit
01.12.1968	Pertwee's Enlistment Expires <i>new and much longer Intro</i>
29.12.1968	The Portsmouth Kiosk
05.01.1969	The Radio Beacon
19.01.1969	Harold Wilson Reviews the Fleet
26.01.1969	The Relief of the Weathership

All the tapes on this page have been received in the last 3 months from Dr G Schajer, Jeremy Stevenson, Stephen Griffiths and David Garnett.

The audio quality is superior to existing recordings and this will mean in most cases the original will be retired from the library. The exception will be 01.12.1968 Pertwee's Enlistment Expires. This show will be available in addition to the original.

## MISCELLANEOUS

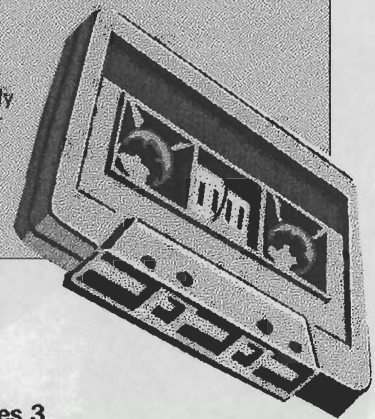
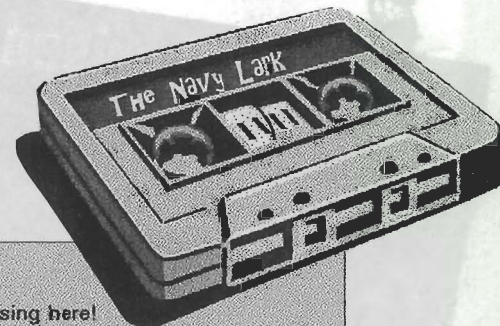
**The Golden Ass** T28103 Home Service 3.11.1944

Is it Jon Pertwee or not? No cast list appears in the Radio Times so we are just guessing here!

**House Of Unspeakable Secrets** Leslie Phillips stars as a secret agent and hair dresser. A marvellous spoof which has lots of humour and Dick Barton-like moments! (8 broadcasts - dates unknown at present)

Jon Pertwee -

- Ladybird Stories 1996
- Compilation (Conjurors Game /Radio Times Classic Comedy Paul Merton introducing The Navy Lark in another Sampler 'Yours' Sampler Navy Lark Worzel Gummidge
- A Short History of Time BBC R2 16.03.1996 (JPs last BBC broadcast)



## THE EMBASSY LARK

### Series 1

1966.03.15	THE NEW AMBASSADOR
1966.03.22	OVERSEAS ECONOMY
1966.03.29	SECURITY
1966.04.05	THE PRINCESS
1966.04.12	NATIONAL GRUMPSHRNOG WEEK
1966.04.19	A TRIP TO LONDON
1966.04.26	THE SPY
1966.05.03	THE TRATVIAN JAILS
1966.05.10	THE TRATVIAN STATE CASINO
1966.05.17	THE HYDRO ELECTRIC SCHEME
1966.05.24	THE PARTY
1966.05.31	MR PETTIGREW'S PROMOTION
1966.06.07	THE TURKISH AMBASSADOR

### Series 2

1967.01.17	THE GRAND ORDER
1967.01.24	THE WINE FESTIVAL
1967.01.31	ECONOMIC PROBLEMS
1967.02.07	THE BIRTHDAY SURPRISE
1967.02.14	A PARKING PROBLEM
1967.02.21	TANIA NOSTROVA
1967.02.28	THE OIL RIG
1967.03.07	THE LAUNCHING
1967.03.14	THE MISSING DOCUMENT
1967.03.21	STUDENTS' EXCHANGE
1967.03.28	THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR
1967.04.04	POWER CUTS
1967.04.11	THE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL
1967.04.18	THE WEEKEND

### Series 3

1968.03.05	THE KING'S HOSTESS
1968.03.12	A QUESTION OF CONVENIENCE
1968.03.19	SIR JEREMY GOES ON HOLIDAY
1968.03.26	UP THE POLE
1968.04.02	THE LEAK
1968.04.09	THE CHINA FIGURES
1968.04.16	SUB LT PHILLIPS DROPS IN
1968.04.23	THE GNIT REGALIA
1968.04.30	THE PICNIC
1968.05.07	THE EMBASSY PARTY
1968.05.14	MR PETTIGREW'S LIFE STORY
1968.05.21	THE TEMPORARY BRITISH EMBASSY
1968.05.28	AN EVERY DAY STORY
1968.06.04	THE DAY OFF
1968.06.11	THE FREEZE



## Navy Lark Appreciation Society Library List - October 2001 - 1

Many shows have the end credits missing. A few are missing the opening credits. These are not noted below.

A few shows have the start or end of the story missing. These are noted below.

Please use the tape number when ordering.

TAPE	SIDE	SHOW	DATE	TITLE	TAPE QUALITY
03	A	01-15	05/07/59	The Smuggling Spy	OK
	B	02-13	08/01/60	The Trip up the Thames	poor
04	A	02-15	22/01/60	A Crisp Romance	VG
	B	02-21	04/03/60	The Cross Country Run	OK
05	A	02-26	08/04/60	The Portarneyland Fishing Limit	OK but broken up in places
	B	03-01	02/11/60	In Portsmouth for a refit	Poor: Break near start/end missing
06	A	03-02	09/11/60	Refitting Ebenezer Pertwee's Tug	OK- short break at about 5 min
	B	03-03	16/11/60	Sea trials and the Popadom	OK but break near start
07	A	03-04	23/11/60	Mutiny aboard Troutbridge?	OK <i>Replaced</i>
	B	03-05	30/11/60	The Explosive Biscuits	Poor at start/break at 25min/otherwise OK
08	A	03-06	07/12/60	Sir Willoughby takes over The Island	Broken up in places otherwise good
	B	03-09	28/12/60	Johnson's Birthday	Poorish-some bits broken up
09	A	03-15	08/02/61	The Floggle Grummit Missile	Broken up at start/bad crackles throughout
	B	03-16	15/02/61	Hitch-hiking Counterfeiter	OK- a bit broken up in places
10	A	03-18	01/03/61	Mr Phillips has Navigation Tuition	OK
	B	03-19	08/03/61	CPO Pertwee and the Laundry	OK
11	A	04-02	22/09/61	Captain Povey's Spy	broken up in places
	B	04-05	13/10/61	Hijacked	Good
12	A	04-06	20/10/61	Admiral Troutbridge	Good, but short break in middle
	B	04-07	27/10/61	Relatives and Reservations	Good
13	A	04-08	03/11/61	Humgrummits on the High Seas	OK
	B	04-09	10/11/61	Are Captain and Mrs Povey Married?	OK
14	A	04-10	17/11/61	Cine Cameras at Sea	OK
	B	04-11	24/11/61	The Citizen Adjustment Course	OK
15	A	04-12	01/12/61	A Hole Lieutenant	OK
	B	04-13	08/12/61	Spy Catching in Casablanca	OK
16	A	04-14	15/12/61	Mount Pot Erupts	VG
	B	04-15	22/12/61	Captain Povey's Shop	Good
17	A	04-16	29/12/61	Leading Seaman Goldstein's Party	Good
	B	04-21	02/02/62	The Sinking of the Bubble Car	Good(a few words missing at start)
18	A	04-22	09/02/62	Long Jonathan Pertwee	OK
	B	04-23	16/02/62	The Admiral's Accident Report	Good
19	A	04-24	23/02/62	Over the Sea to Rosyth	Good
	B	04-25	02/03/62	Return of Sir Frederick Flatley	OK
20	A	04-26	09/03/62	The Ship's Concert	Good
	B	05#01	25/01/63	TV Lark 1: Opening Night	OK
21	A	05#02	01/02/63	TV Lark 2: The Prestige Show	OK-some short breaks & crackles/start missing
	B	05#03	08/02/63	TV Lark 3: Z Ambulances	muffled
22	A	05#04	15/02/63	TV Lark 4: House of Commons	Poor: breaks, bangs & crackles
	B	05#05	22/02/63	TV Lark 5: Makepeace	OK
23	A	05#06	01/03/63	TV Lark 6: On Safari	OK
	B	05#07	08/03/63	TV Lark 7: Ship Ahoy!	OK
24	A	05#08	15/03/63	TV Lark 8: Portarneyland Election	OK
	B	05#10	29/03/63	TV Lark 10: Back in the Navy	fuzzy
25	A	05-01	05/04/63	First day out of dock	Good
	B	05-02	12/04/63	100th Edition	Good but end missing
26	A	05-04	26/04/63	Whittlesea Regatta	Good
	B	05-05	03/05/63	HMS Troutbridge gets a rocket	Good
27	A	05-06	10/05/63	The Ghost Ship	OK
	B	06-01	27/09/63	Wren Chasen Returns	OK
28	A	06-02	04/10/63	On the Carpet	OK
	B	06-03	11/10/63	The Bunglese Spies	OK
29	A	06-04	18/10/63	Troutbridge's Party	OK
	B	06-05	25/10/63	Rescuing Admirals	OK
30	A	06-06	01/11/63	Demise of the Depth Charges	OK
	B	06-07	08/11/63	The Struggle for Promotion	OK
31	A	06-08	15/11/63	Navigation by Computer	OK
	B	06-09	22/11/63	Stormy Weather	Good (crackles during last 5 minutes)
32	A	06-11	06/12/63	The Submerged Island	OK
	B	06-12	13/12/63	The Sicilian Secret Agent	OK/muffled



## Navy Lark Appreciation Society Library List - October 2001 - 2

33	A	06-13	20/12/63	Germany's Troutbridge	OK	
	B	06-14	27/12/63	Confirming Povey's Rank	OK/muffled	
34	A	06-15	03/01/64	The Calais Dock Strike	OK/muffled/short breaks	
	B	06-16	10/01/64	Johnson's Memoirs	Very fuzzy	
35	A	06-17	17/01/64	The Emperor of Tratvia	fuzzy	
	B	06-18	24/01/64	Open Day	Very fuzzy	
36	A	06-19	31/01/64	Stuck on a Sandbank	some crackles	
	B	07-01	11/07/65	Back in the muck again	poorish- end missing	Replaced
37	A	07-03	25/07/65	Mr Murray is Victimised	OK	
	B	07-04	01/08/65	The Poveys Move House	OK but big drop in vol after half way	Replaced
38	A	07-06	15/08/65	Admiral Pertwee's Fleet?	OK	
	B	07-08	29/08/65	A Change of Heart	VG	
39	A	07-11	19/09/65	The Sabotaged Floggle-Toggle-box	Good	
	B	07-13	03/10/65	Going on Leave to Croydon	Good	
40	A	08-01	04/09/66	Where is Troutbridge?	OK	
	B	08-02	11/09/66	The Float-a-Pedal Fiddle	OK	
41	A	08-03	18/09/66	A Sticky Business	OK	
	B	08-04	25/09/66	Buoys will be buoys	OK	
42	A	08-05	02/10/66	Steamship Day	VG	
	B	08-06	09/10/66	Farewell to HMS Varsity	Good	
43	A	08-07	16/10/66	The Army Lark	OK	
	B	08-08	23/10/66	Just the Ticket	OK	
44	A	08-10	06/11/66	Pertwee and the Tratvian Beer	VG	
	B	08-11	13/11/66	The PM Papa	OK	
45	A	08-12	20/11/66	Getting rid of Pertwee	Good	
	B	08-13	27/11/66	Off to Sea at Last	OK except for short break at beginning	
46	A	09-01	02/07/67	Back from the Antarctic	OK	
	B	09-02	09/07/67	Fishers off the Faeroes	OK (MW interf)	
47	A	09-03	16/07/67	A Filthy Ferryboat	Good (MW)	
	B	09-04	23/07/67	Jigsaws and Jemmies	OK	
48	A	09-05	30/07/67	The Naval Review	OK(MW)	
	B	09-06	06/08/67	The Curious Caravan Case	OK (MW interference)	
49	A	09-07	13/08/67	Frenchmen in J41	Good	
	B	09-08	20/08/67	The Police Drop in	OK	
50	A	09-09	27/08/67	Mr Murray's Endurance Course	OK	
	B	09-10	03/09/67	Women in the Wardroom	Good	
51	A	09-11	10/09/67	Troutbridge's Silver Jubilee Party	Good	
	B	09-12	17/09/67	CECIL, The Navigation Computer	Good	
52	A	09-13	24/09/67	A Russian Rendezvous	OK (MW whine)	
	B	09-14	01/10/67	The Bugged and Burgled Beer	poorish	
53	A	09-15	08/10/67	Picking up the Popadom	OK	
	B	09-17	22/10/67	The Flying Machine	OK	
54	A	09-18	29/10/67	When Mr Phillips was at Dartmouth	OK	
	B	09-19	05/11/67	A Fishy Business	OK	
55	A	09-20	12/11/67	Troutbridge in Quarantine	Good	
	B	10-01	13/10/68	Troutbridge Electrifies Portsmouth	OK	
56	A	10-03	27/10/68	The Smugglers' Return	OK	
	B	10-04	03/11/68	Captain Trotter Takes Charge	OK	
57	A	10-05	10/11/68	Anti-Submarine Missile Launcher	OK	
	B	10-06	17/11/68	Sub-Conductor Phillips	OK	
58	A	10-07	24/11/68	The South Kiwan Summit	OK- bad breaks towards end	
	B	10-08	01/12/68	Pertwee's Enlistment Expires	VG except occasional bad electrical interf.	
59	A	10-09	08/12/68	Captain Povey Takes Over	OK(some minor MW interf.)	
	B	10-10	15/12/68	Sir Willoughby Goes to Kawowa	OK	
60	A	10-11	22/12/68	The Padre's Birthday	OK	
	B	10-12	29/12/68	The Portsmouth Kiosk	poor - interference etc	
61	A	10-13	05/01/69	The Radio Beacon	OK-a bit broken up at end	
	B	10-14	12/01/69	Mr Phillips' Wrong Uniform	OK	
62	A	10-15	19/01/69	Harold Wilson Reviews the Fleet	OK(dodgy near end)	
	B	10-16	26/01/69	The Relief of the Weather Ship	OK	
63	A	10-17	02/02/69	The Mickey Mouse Toothbrush	OK	
	B	10-18	09/02/69	The Brick Smugglers	a bit muffled	
64	A	11-01	28/12/69	Lt-Cmdr Murray and the Squatters	OK	
	B	11-02	04/01/70	What is the SSE?	OK	



## Navy Lark Appreciation Society Library List - October 2001 - 3



## Navy Lark Appreciation Society Library List - October 2001 - 4

VIDEO TAPE					
VT1		Films	1959/60	The Navy Lark/Watch Your Stern starring Leslie Phillips (For donation purposes please treat the video as two audio tapes)	OK - Copy of recordings from TV
AUDIO TAPES FEATURING NAVY LARK STARS					
JP- Jon Pertwee; LP- Leslie Phillips; RB- Ronnie Barker					
101	A/B	X-05	07/12/96	Everybody Down: R2 tribute to JP (90min)	OK
102	A/B	X-06	1995	An Evening with the Doctor-Part1 (60min) (JP tells his life story)	OK
103	A/B	X-06	1995	An Evening with the Doctor-Part2 (60min)	OK
104	A/B	X-07	1996	Radio Lives: Tribute by Nick Baker to JP	OK
	B	X-08	10/08/99	Review of "On the whole it's been jolly good" starring LP (5min)	OK
	B	X-04	1990s	Farewell to the Paris -10min extract featuring JP & LP	VG
105	A/B	X-09	?	Dracula read by JP (90min)	Clear but loud background hiss
106	A		1975/77	JP: Hans Christian Andersen & Dick Whittington and his Cat	
	B		1965/	JP: My Fair Lady	
107	A		1969/	RB: A Pint of Old & Filthy	
	B		1978/	RB: Unbroken British Record	
108	A/B		1966/	JP & Jim Dale: Oliver	
109	A		1966/	JP: Children's Favourites	
	B		1980/	JP: Worzel Gummidge Sings	
110	A/B		04/08/00	LP & Co.:With Great Pleasure (music/verse/prose - Radio4)	
111	A		1990/	Pertwee in Person - Interview with JP	OK but incomplete
	B		01/12/94	Who is JP? Part 1 (JP tells his life story)	Private recording of live performance: quite audible though audience noise is intrusive at times.
112	A		01/12/94	Who is JP? Part 2	
	B		01/12/94	Who is JP? Part 3	
113	A		1984/	Backstage with JP	OK
			?	JP: Rare musical songs	OK
	B		?	The JP Sketchbook - Comedy sketches with June Whitfield	OK
			?	A Short History of Time - presented by JP	OK - first 15min of an hour long programme
114	A		?	Songs from "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" - JP	OK
	B		?	Deus Ex Machina: Words & Music with JP & co.	OK
115	A		?	JP Songs	OK
			?	BFESUK Radio interview about "Moon Boots & Dinner Suits" with JP	OK
			?	Interview with JP & Mrs Pertwee	OK
			?	Part of JP interview with Parkinson	OK-Recorded from TV with microphone
	B		?	JP: This is Your Life	OK-Recorded from TV with microphone
			?	JP reads "Aladdin"	OK
116	A/B		14/02/94	LP presents a tribute to Kenneth Horne	OK
117	A		?	The Barkers versus the Rest of the World (play featuring LP)	OK
	B		15/03/00	"Me and Little Boots" (play about Caligula with LP as Caligula's horse, Incitatus.)	VG
118	A/B		1992/	RB: A Life in Comedy (TV Soundtrack)	Good
119	A/B		1980/	2 Ronnies: Very best of me &.....of him	Good
120			18/03/99	RB: At the Beeb (Radio2) - WITHDRAWN - published in BBC Radio Collection	
121	A/B		Feb/2001	LP: Tales from the Backbench (Radio 4)	Good
122	A/B			LP: Starring Leslie Willey Parts 1&2	OK (Comedy series with LP & Eric Sykes about
123	A/B			LP: Starring Leslie Willey Parts 3&4	OK (an actor (LP) who is past his prime and won't
124	A/B			LP: Starring Leslie Willey Parts 5&6	OK (admit it.



Ms Cruz will photograph and research the history of all the works in order to create a database of the corporation's stock. The database will eventually be available on the internet.

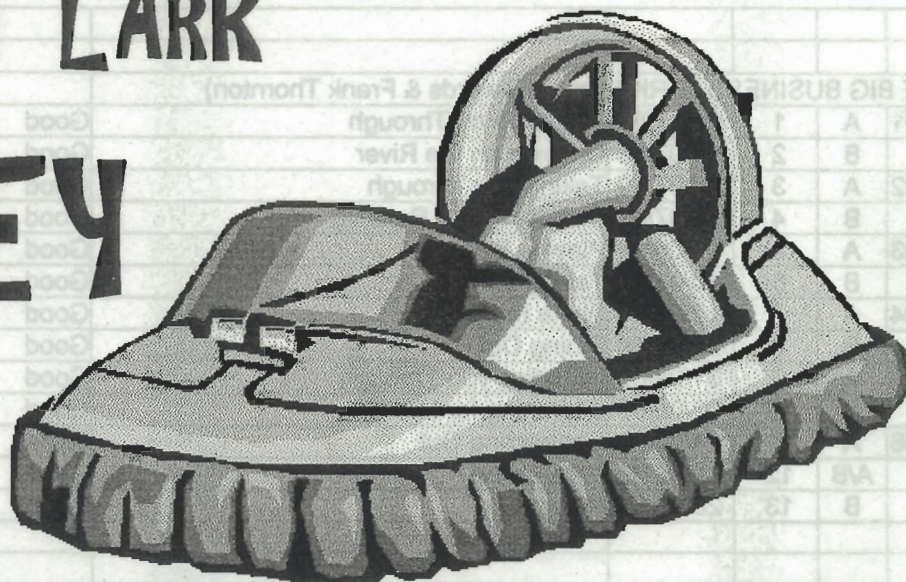


# THE NAVY LARK

AND

# POMPEY

WARWICK PAYNE



YOU CAN'T whack a stroll along  
Commercial Road with a rock salmon and  
sixpenn'oth...

If one programme is synonymous with Portsmouth, it's The Navy Lark. The lovably inept crew of HMS Troutbridge entertained radio listeners over three decades with their bungling antics at Portsmouth Naval Base. HMS Troutbridge made a real impact on Portsmouth, chiefly because Sub Lt. Phillips impaled the vessel on the Pompey dockside in just about every edition. The city would frequently feature in the scripts, as the long-suffering Captain Povey once remarked on paint disappearing from the naval stores: *Have you noticed how every house within a three mile radius of Portsmouth naval base seems to be painted battleship grey?*

Nowhere in the region was spared, especially in one edition when the crew took delivery of a training hovercraft from Lee-on-the-Solent. Having lost control of the contraption, and delighting at its ability to travel over land, the crew of HMS Troutbridge took the hovercraft for a quick spin on Goodwood Racecourse. Getting the contraption through Portsmouth was a difficult business as the hovercraft charged through the dockyard gate and slithered up Queen Street, before Wren Chasen received a phone call from the Police: *Do we know anything about a runaway hovercraft - it's just chased His Worship The Mayor into the Public Library.*

HMS Troutbridge was no less destructive as its senile CO Commander Bell once commented: *Heard they smashed into a dredger and put the darn thing in reverse. What a mess. Three farmers in Hampshire ended up with several fields they didn't know they'd got. Then they went through the fishing fleet, good grief. Have you ever seen a twenty-pound cod airborne - they look so surprised!*

Such mayhem was usually as a result of Sub Lt. Phillips total inability to navigate. His failings were exposed very clearly when he announced: *According to my calculations we should be just off the coast of Africa.*

*I'd find that very surprising, sir. We only left Portsmouth ten minutes ago.*

*Cor...our tub can't half go!*

To the relief of the Admiralty, the bungling crew of HMS Troutbridge were not modelled on real naval personnel. However, their vessel had a contemporary namesake in HMS Troutbridge, which during The Navy Lark's broadcasting years served primarily in the Mediterranean before being paid off in Chatham in 1969. David Axford served on board HMS Troutbridge during the mid-1960s and recalls:

*Tapes of The Navy Lark were always sent out to the ship and broadcast over the tannoy.*

David also points out the badge of his vessel was the inspiration behind the badge of HMS Troutbridge, as featured in the 1959 film version:

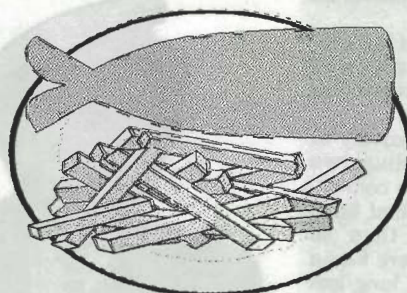
*The Navy Lark created their own badge which was similar to Troutbridge's badge. The difference being that they depicted a ship (Troutbridge) breaking through the bridge at a great rate of knots!*

Active naval service was not unfamiliar territory for Troutbridge's crew. Jon Pertwee served in the Royal Navy for six years during World War Two, and warmly reflected on the camaraderie he later enjoyed on HMS Troutbridge (in an interview shortly before his death in May 1996): *The Navy Lark was riotously successful because we were a very tight-knit team.*

What seems inexplicable is why The Navy Lark has been almost forgotten in the 25 years since it left the airwaves. No doubt it has left a mark on the generations to follow - tales of nautical derring-do aired in the local pub are often accompanied by a quotation of Sub Lt Phillips' catch-phrase *Left hand down a bit...*, but few children of the MTV generation could explain its origin.

Yet, in Portsmouth the memory of the show is kept alive. Two years ago the Royal Naval Museum featured The Navy Lark as part of its exhibition on maritime life, with audio tapes broadcasting the show throughout the museum. Supervisor of the museum, Paul Butler clearly recognises the bond between Pompey and HMS Troutbridge: *I think you could easily imagine the crew wandering around the streets of Portsmouth.*

Certainly there is a part of Portsmouth that will always belong to The Navy Lark, and on a still night, you can still imagine CPO Pertwee strolling up Commercial Road with a copy of The Evening News filled with a rock salmon and chips.



## Navy Lark Fact File:

The Navy Lark was broadcast between 1959 and 1976.

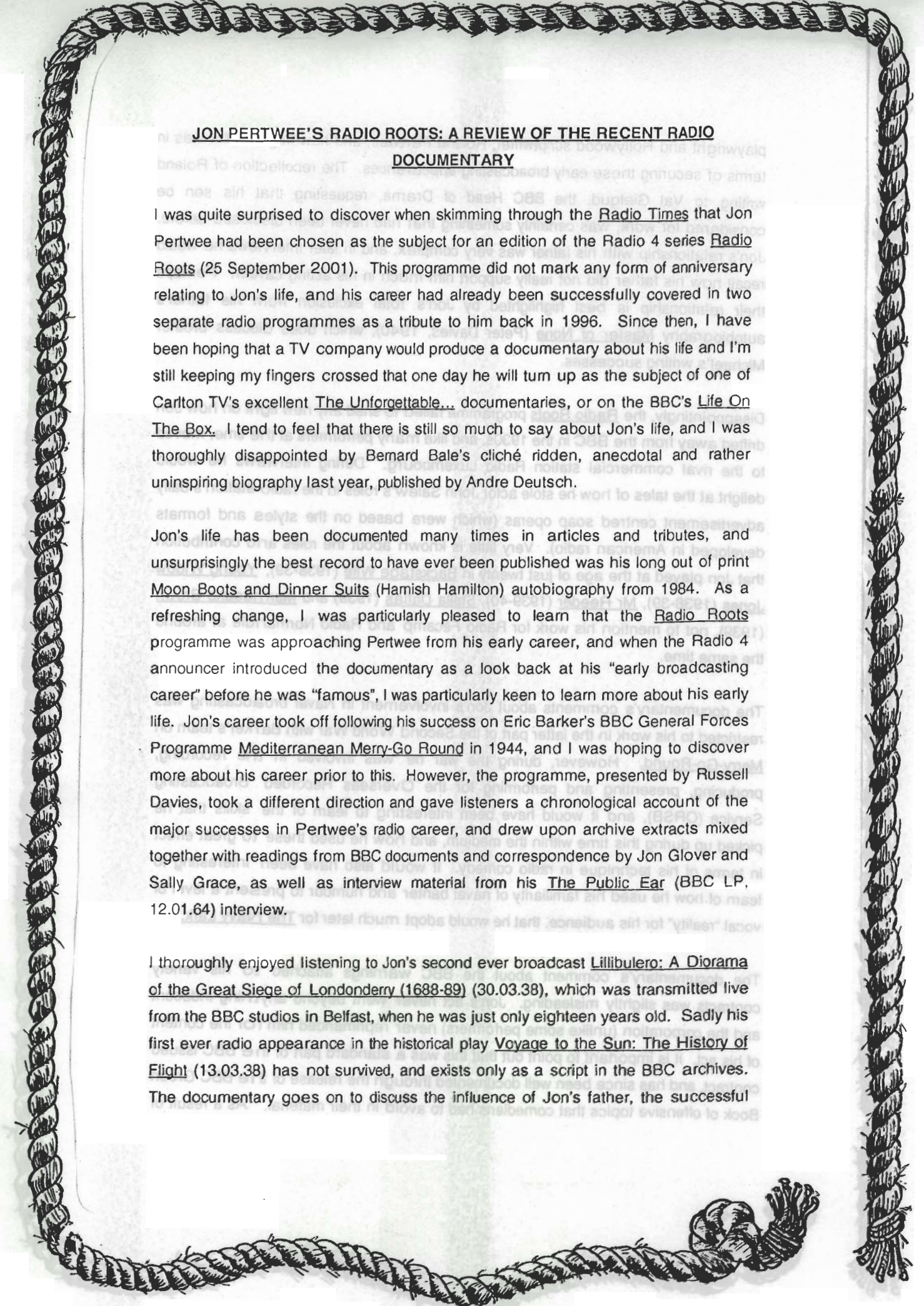
254 episodes were broadcast in no less than 15 series.

In December 1962 a Navy Lark Christmas Special was recorded for British personnel in Antarctica, which was not aired in the UK.

The 1959 film version of The Navy Lark was not set in Portsmouth, but a fictitious Channel Isle called 'Boonzey'. The picture was filmed in and around the port of Newhaven, East Sussex.

Spin-off series with the same crew included The TV Lark and The Embassy Lark.





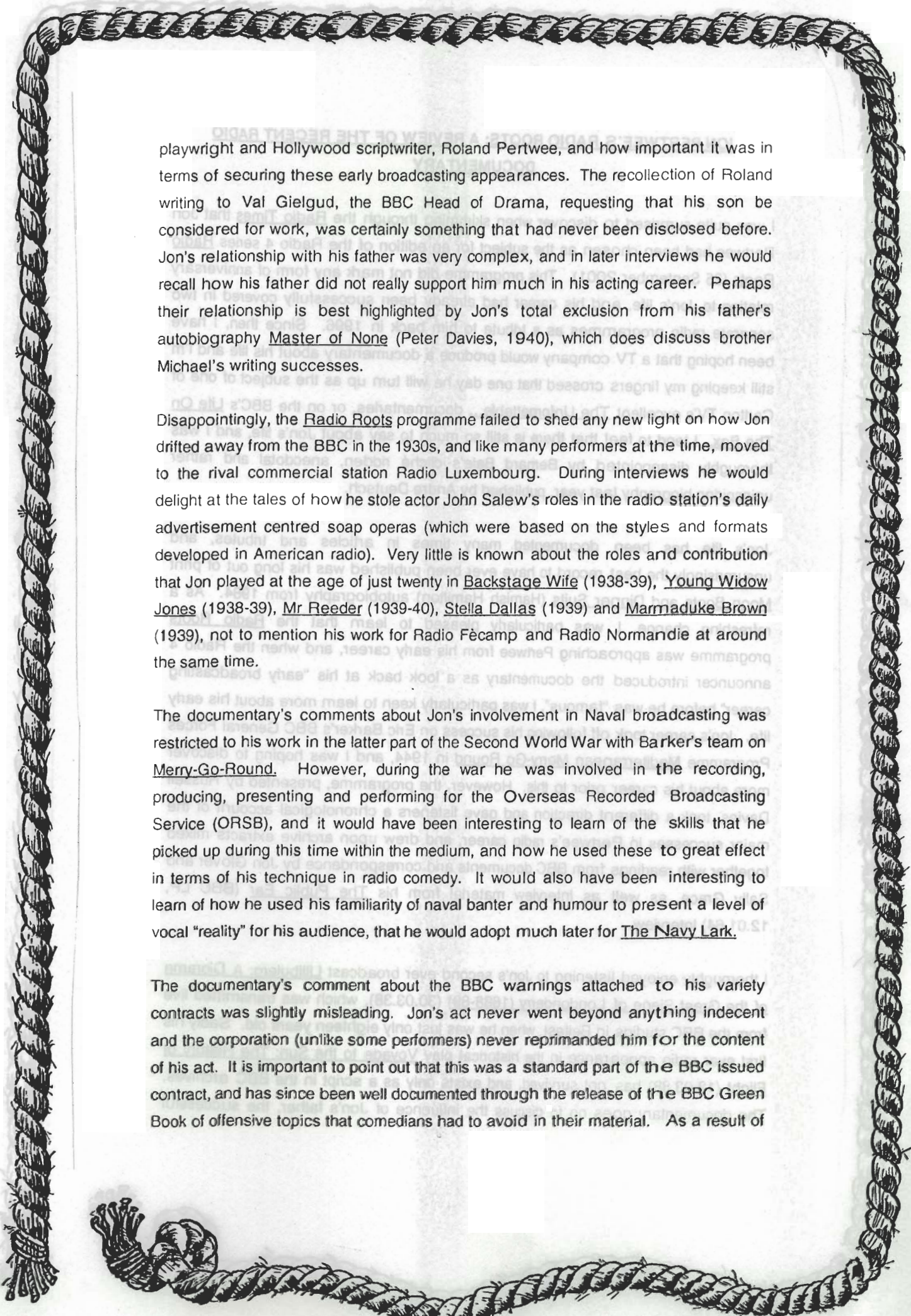
## JON PERTWEE'S RADIO ROOTS: A REVIEW OF THE RECENT RADIO DOCUMENTARY

I was quite surprised to discover when skimming through the Radio Times that Jon Pertwee had been chosen as the subject for an edition of the Radio 4 series Radio Roots (25 September 2001). This programme did not mark any form of anniversary relating to Jon's life, and his career had already been successfully covered in two separate radio programmes as a tribute to him back in 1996. Since then, I have been hoping that a TV company would produce a documentary about his life and I'm still keeping my fingers crossed that one day he will turn up as the subject of one of Carlton TV's excellent The Unforgettable... documentaries, or on the BBC's Life On The Box. I tend to feel that there is still so much to say about Jon's life, and I was thoroughly disappointed by Bernard Bale's cliché ridden, anecdotal and rather uninspiring biography last year, published by Andre Deutsch.

Jon's life has been documented many times in articles and tributes, and unsurprisingly the best record to have ever been published was his long out of print Moon Boots and Dinner Suits (Hamish Hamilton) autobiography from 1984. As a refreshing change, I was particularly pleased to learn that the Radio Roots programme was approaching Pertwee from his early career, and when the Radio 4 announcer introduced the documentary as a look back at his "early broadcasting career" before he was "famous", I was particularly keen to learn more about his early life. Jon's career took off following his success on Eric Barker's BBC General Forces Programme Mediterranean Merry-Go Round in 1944, and I was hoping to discover more about his career prior to this. However, the programme, presented by Russell Davies, took a different direction and gave listeners a chronological account of the major successes in Pertwee's radio career, and drew upon archive extracts mixed together with readings from BBC documents and correspondence by Jon Glover and Sally Grace, as well as interview material from his The Public Ear (BBC LP, 12.01.64) interview.

I thoroughly enjoyed listening to Jon's second ever broadcast Lillibulero: A Diorama of the Great Siege of Londonderry (1688-89) (30.03.38), which was transmitted live from the BBC studios in Belfast, when he was just only eighteen years old. Sadly his first ever radio appearance in the historical play Voyage to the Sun: The History of Flight (13.03.38) has not survived, and exists only as a script in the BBC archives. The documentary goes on to discuss the influence of Jon's father, the successful





playwright and Hollywood scriptwriter, Roland Pertwee, and how important it was in terms of securing these early broadcasting appearances. The recollection of Roland writing to Val Gielgud, the BBC Head of Drama, requesting that his son be considered for work, was certainly something that had never been disclosed before. Jon's relationship with his father was very complex, and in later interviews he would recall how his father did not really support him much in his acting career. Perhaps their relationship is best highlighted by Jon's total exclusion from his father's autobiography Master of None (Peter Davies, 1940), which does discuss brother Michael's writing successes.

Disappointingly, the Radio Roots programme failed to shed any new light on how Jon drifted away from the BBC in the 1930s, and like many performers at the time, moved to the rival commercial station Radio Luxembourg. During interviews he would delight at the tales of how he stole actor John Salew's roles in the radio station's daily advertisement centred soap operas (which were based on the styles and formats developed in American radio). Very little is known about the roles and contribution that Jon played at the age of just twenty in Backstage Wife (1938-39), Young Widow Jones (1938-39), Mr Reeder (1939-40), Stella Dallas (1939) and Marmaduke Brown (1939), not to mention his work for Radio Fécamp and Radio Normandie at around the same time.

The documentary's comments about Jon's involvement in Naval broadcasting was restricted to his work in the latter part of the Second World War with Barker's team on Merry-Go-Round. However, during the war he was involved in the recording, producing, presenting and performing for the Overseas Recorded Broadcasting Service (ORSB), and it would have been interesting to learn of the skills that he picked up during this time within the medium, and how he used these to great effect in terms of his technique in radio comedy. It would also have been interesting to learn of how he used his familiarity of naval banter and humour to present a level of vocal "reality" for his audience, that he would adopt much later for The Navy Lark.

The documentary's comment about the BBC warnings attached to his variety contracts was slightly misleading. Jon's act never went beyond anything indecent and the corporation (unlike some performers) never reprimanded him for the content of his act. It is important to point out that this was a standard part of the BBC issued contract, and has since been well documented through the release of the BBC Green Book of offensive topics that comedians had to avoid in their material. As a result of





Pontuari Progress - with Mary Haystead who plays his girlfriend.

1955

Stephen Griffiths © 2001



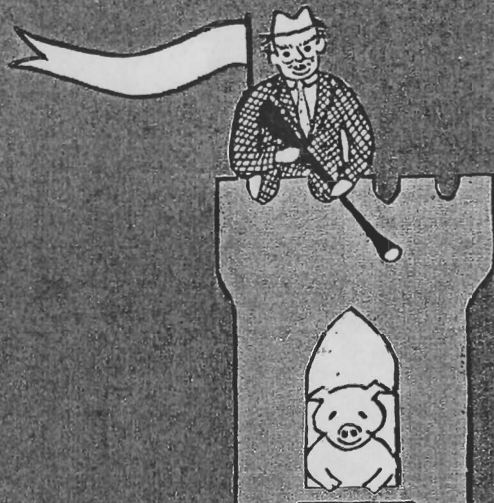
the lack of archive recordings from Jon's variety show appearances (Workers' Playtime, Midday Music-Hall and Variety Playhouse), the programme moves towards his work on Up the Pole and the controversy surrounding his troubled relationship with the corporation over money. However, during 1948-1957, he was a very successful performer on radio and in what was remaining of Britain's variety theatre, where he appeared on the bill alongside Robb Wilton, Morecambe and Wise, Peter Sellers, Beryl Reid and Max Wall. Without a doubt, he drew audiences in as a result of his popularity on the wireless, and was billed as "The Most Versatile Voice in Radio".

Jon Pertwee never really found success in radio or television comedy as the star figure, and relied heavily upon the team spirit of programmes like Merry-Go-Round and The Navy Lark. Radio Roots mentioned the unsuccessful series Puffney Post Office (21.04 – 21.07.50) and the unbroadcast trial recording for the sketch show Foursome (10.11.52), which was one of several that he was involved with during the 1950s. The programme goes on to discuss the launch of The Navy Lark and concludes rather abruptly after this. As to why this was the case is linked to the notions that Jon's career in radio declined as a result of the popularity of his range of characters in these series. It's also commonly assumed that his heavy workload on television in Doctor Who (1970-74), Whodunnit (1974-78) and Worzel Gummidge (1979-81), resulted in a reduction in radio appearances. However, this was not the case, with several series of The Navy Lark continuing alongside his television commitments, and the one off comedy special Jon Pertwee's Sketchbook (R4, 22.08.75) with June Whitfield. Whilst the 1980s on radio, did restrict Jon to only interviews, this was to change in the 1990s, with his appearances in the science fiction radio dramas The Adventures of Superman (R1, 03.10-17.10.91) as Schwarz, Doctor Who: The Paradise of Death (R5, 27.08 – 24.09.93) and Doctor Who: The Ghosts of N Space (R2, 20.01 – 24.02.96). He also returned to comedy with editions of Harry Hill's Fruit Corner (R4, 18.11.93) as the Celebrity Lord, and The Skivers (R4, 23.02.95), where he spoofed his Doctor Who and Worzel Gummidge roles.

Jon Pertwee's life contained so many aspects, and his career in entertainment spanned over fifty years. It is realistic to assume that any documentary will have to leave sections out because of time restrictions. However, whilst the documentary did choose some very interesting clips from Jon's work, I was disappointed that the programme did not develop what it originally set out to do.



# LYRIC THEATRE



## OH, CLARENCE!



PROGRAMME ONE SHILLING



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and

JON PERTWEE

in

## OH, CLARENCE!

A new comedy

by JOHN CHAPMAN

based on the Lord Emsworth stories by P. G. WODEHOUSE

with

DAVID MORTON DAVID ROWLANDS  
BRIAN CULLIS JANICE GORDON  
TAMARA USTINOV APRIL WALKER

Directed by CHARLES HICKMAN

Decor and Costumes by ANTHONY HOLLAND

Lighting by MICHAEL NORTEN

Overture and Interval music by HARRY ROY AND HIS BAND

Link music by John Chapman; arranged by Laurie Holloway



Jon Pertwee, Agnes Lauchlan and Robertson Hare

## OH, CLARENCE!

By JOHN CHAPMAN

Based on the Lord Emsworth stories  
by P. G. WODEHOUSE

Characters in order of appearance

Lady Constance Keeble (Sister to Lord Emsworth)	Agnes Lauchlan
Beach	James Hayter
The Hon. Freddie Threepwood	David Rowlands
Clarence, Ninth Earl of Emsworth	Naunton Wayne
A Parlourmaid	Janice Gordon
Gertrude Wibberley	Tamara Ustinov
Dame Daphne Winkworth	Peggy Mount
Jennifer Parsloe-Parsloe	April Walker
Sir Gregory Parsloe-Parsloe	Jon Pertwee
Rev. Rupert Bingham	David Morton
Dr. Simmons	Robertson Hare
Sir Eustace Chalfont, O.B.E., M.R.C.P.	Austin Trevor
Police Sgt. Evans	Brian Cullis

**Act I** Scene 1 Part of the terrace at Blandings Castle. One Summer morning in the twenties.

Scene 2 Sir Gregory Parsloe-Parsloe's Study at Much Matchingham. Later that morning.

Scene 3 The drawing room at Blandings Castle. The following afternoon.

**Act II** Scene 1 Part of the terrace at Blandings Castle. The following afternoon.

Scene 2 The drawing room. After dinner that night.

Scene 3 A bedroom in Blandings Castle. Later that same night.

First performance at this Theatre: 27th August 1968







**April Walker and David Rowlands**



# CUE FOR SONG PERHAPS?

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR reviews *Oh, Clarence!* / Lyric

On all right, if you must know: no, I never have read any of the works of P G Wodehouse—or at least, only *Bring On the Girls*, the book he wrote with Guy Bolton about their great days writing the books for every second important American musical. Since otherwise I have this great gap yawning in my education—as the term would be understood by any Englishman worthy the name—perhaps I ought not to venture into discussion of John Chapman's new farce, which is described on the programme as 'Based on the Lord Emsworth stories by P G Wodehouse'. Obviously, to begin with, I am in no position to hold forth knowledgeably about the relation between the play and the books, or to know whether admiration or indignation should be meted out to Mr Chapman. I do not even know for sure whether what I

find almost unbearably tiresome in the play is a true reflection of something I should dislike equally in the original, or has been bodily imported by Mr Chapman to liven things up.

I do have some sort of guide, as it happens. The night I was there I would guess that the average age of the audience was somewhere in the mid-sixties. From their appearance, and from what they said to each other, expectantly before the curtain went up and gleefully during the interval, it would seem that two linked enthusiasms had persuaded them to turn out: devotion to Wodehouse, and devotion to Robertson Hare. Maybe they were not very critical devotees of Wodehouse, but at least they laughed contentedly throughout and seemed perfectly happy with what they were offered. Which must, I suppose, mean something. Maybe

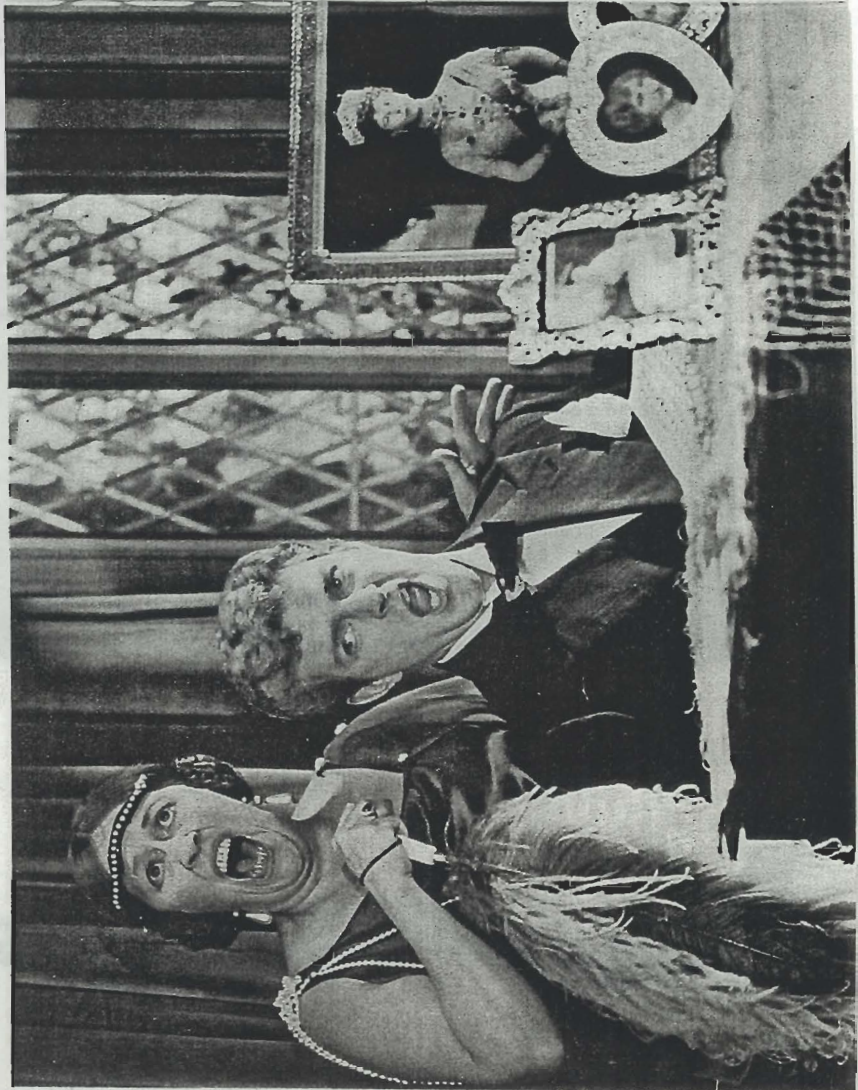
that I would hate Wodehouse any way. But be that as it may, I can at least judge the evening on its own virtues as a piece of theatrical light entertainment. And as such I thought it was pretty deplorable.

It has a plot of some elaboration. Lord Emsworth and his great rival among pig-breeders, Sir Gregory Parsloe-Parsloe, are thrown together against their own volition by the romantic attachment which has sprung up between Emsworth's dripping son and Parsloe-Parsloe's masterful horsey daughter. Emsworth has, the whiles, inadvertently pocketed a valuable scarab from Parsloe-Parsloe's collection, and to expose him and recover the object Parsloe-Parsloe brings along to the weekend houseparty a personal detective, disguised as his personal physician. Also present are Emsworth's

niece, who has been sent into the country to forget her attraction towards a penniless cleric, the penniless cleric, smuggled into the house in disguise by Emsworth's son, an old friend, and Dame Daphne Winkworth, the niece's headmistress, who turns out to be an old flame of Emsworth's.

The stage is set for all sorts of Aldwych-farical goings-on, most of which obediently do go on in the course of the evening: there is quite a bit of running in and out of french windows, climbing into the wrong bedrooms, near-revelations of things not to be revealed, followed by lighting cover-ups of frantic intricacy, and all the rest of it. But the spirit seems to be lacking. And Mr Chapman (or Mr Wodehouse, or both) seems to have given the actors painfully little to work on. Virtually every joke in the script, for instance, plays on one basic type of misunderstanding usually, though not invariably, the product of Emsworth's incessant absent-mindedness. For instance: Dame Daphne, transported by her first meeting with Emsworth in twenty years or so: 'Oh, you haven't changed.' Emsworth, looking vaguely down at his crumpled tweeds: 'Oh, I'm sorry, I've just come from the pig-sties.' This sort of thing is all very well every now and then, but as the sole form of humour in a full-length play it very rapidly loses some of its charms.

Perhaps quickness of the hand could deceive the eye. But I doubt it. I was not particularly conscious that Charles Hickman's production lacked pace; simply that it had desperately little to be pacy with. The cast is fine. Naughton Wayne bumbles to the



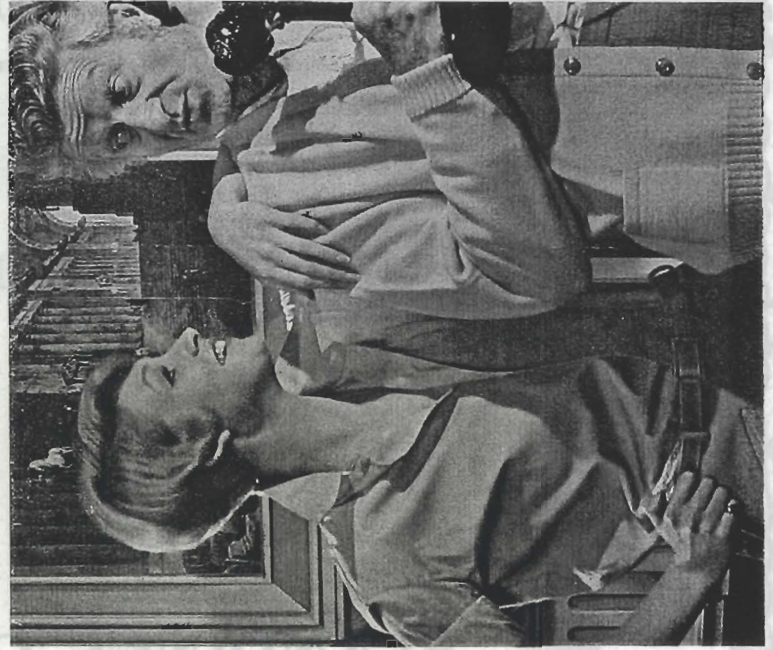
Far left: Dame Daphne Winkworth (Peggy Mount), an old flame of Lord Emsworth's, with David Morton as Rupert Bingham, fellow house guests of Sir Gregory Parsloe-Parsloe. Left: Rupert with Lord Emsworth's niece, Gertrude (Tamara Ustinov)



manner born as Lord Emsworth. Peggy Mount moos like a love-sick heifer and conjures up a fearsome vision of deadly playfulness as Dame Daphne. James Hayter grumbles endlessly about his feet as the builer Beach, and Robertson Hare, of course, plays Robertson Hare slightly and ineffectively disguised as the incompetent private detective Simmons. Of the principals only Jon Pertwee as Parsloe-Parsloe seems to me, perhaps over-conscious of what thin ice they are all skating on, to overdo things rather drastically in an attempt to keep the audience at hysterical pitch, instead of the happy jollity in which normally they passed the evening.

Maybe it was because I had recently been to see *Lady Be Good* that one thought kept recurring to me all through the second half: Cue for song, cue for song, cue for song. But in fact I think this a not unfair comment on *Oh Clarence!* It does seem desperately like a 'twenties musical which has for some reason been deprived of its score. In this sense John Chapman is probably true enough to the P G Wodehouse I do know, the scriptwriter of *Lady Be Good*, *Oh Kay*, *Anything Goes*. It is just that he seems not to have noticed that without Gershwin or Cole Porter to help out this just isn't quite enough. If *Oh Clarence!* were fitted out at once with a score by Sandy Wilson I think I should probably enjoy it hugely. Failing that, I suppose I shall just have to leave it to the pre-sold Wodehouse audience and the lovers of Robertson Hare. Anyway, I am sure there are more than enough of both classes to guarantee a very healthy run without me.

Opposite page: Gertrude and Rupert with, behind, April Walker as Jennifer Parsloe-Parsloe and David Rowlands as Freddie Threepwood. This page—above: Lord Emsworth and his sister Lady Constance (Naumton Wayne and Agnes Lanchlan, seated) with Freddie and the builer Beach (James Hayter). Left: Jennifer Parsloe-Parsloe with her father, Sir Gregory (Jon Pertwee)





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in

## BLANDINGS CASTLE

A New Comedy by JOHN CHAPMAN

based on the Lord Emsworth stories by P. G. WODEHOUSE

with

DAVID ROWLANDS  
BRIAN CULLIS  
TAMARA USTINOV

DAVID MORTON  
JANICE GORDON  
APRIL WALKER

Directed by CHARLES HICKMAN

Characters  
in order of appearance

Lady Constance R.  
(Lord Emsworth)

Beach

Freddie Threepwood

Clarence, Ninth Earl of Emsworth

A Parlourmaid

Gertrude Keeble

Dame Daphne Winkworth

Jennifer Parsloe-Parsloe

Sir Gregory Parsloe-Parsloe

Rupert Bingham

Dr. Simmons

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ROBERTSON HARE

AUSTIN TREVOR

BRIAN CULLIS

Lighting by  
MICHAEL NORTHEN

terrace at Blandings Castle.  
mer morning in the twenties.  
Parsloe-Parsloe's Study at  
Bingham. Later that  
noon.

at Blandings Castle.  
drawing room. After dinner that  
night.

race at Blandings Castle.  
drawing room. The next morning.

Scene 3  
Scene 4  
The drawing room. The next morning.

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# Lucky escape changed my life

A recent near miss on a plane journey left veteran actor Leslie Phillips in contemplative mood when he met Phil Penfold

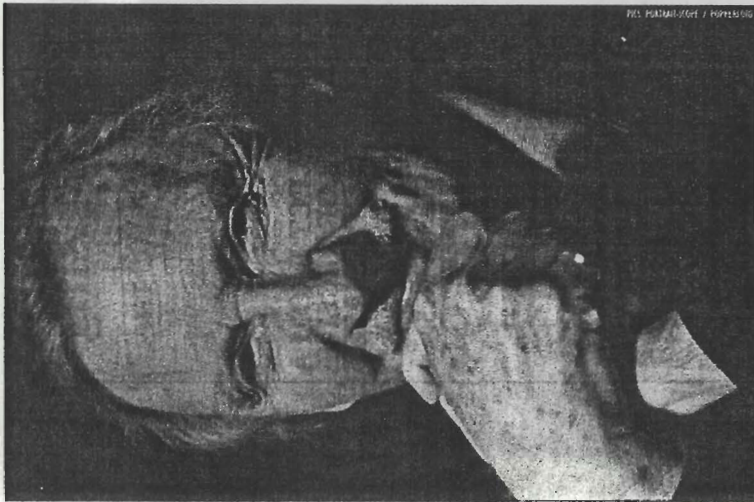
LESIE PHILLIPS, Britain's much-loved, quintessential rogue, thought that his end had come - but the 74-year-old movie, sage and TV star took it all in his stride. "I'd just finished a TV version of Evelyn Waugh's *Sword of Honour*", which was screened in January to great acclaim, "and decided to take a short break to my home in Ibiza. We were crossing the Med when the plane suddenly dived and headed straight for the sea. I didn't know what the hell was going on."

"But the character I'd played in the TV series, the older, dying man, Gervase, had such a profound effect on me; he's so sainted and sure and at peace with himself and all around him, that I just didn't panic. It was a bizarre feeling. I've never had such inner peace of mind."

"I thought 'if this is going to be it, so be it', and just sort of meditated while all around me were getting hysterical. I thought 'Well, I'm not a very good swimmer, and this is not the way I'd choose to go, I'd actually rather hit the ground and be done with it' and contemplated what a rather good life I'd had so far. I've had more than my fair share of fun and successes in a long career."

"And then, blow me down, we were just about skimming the waves, when the plane miraculously righted itself, and we flew on to our destination."

"Someone up there, the supreme critic of all, must like some of my work after all. What caused the problem I have no idea, but Gervase helped me through it all, there's no doubt about that."



Top: Leslie today, at peace with the world. Above: Leslie the young family man, at home with his wife Penny and their children (from left) Caroline, Roger, Andrew and Claudia

*'I live for tomorrow' and the day after that'*

treasure - and I am that 'another man'. I'm very hands-on about it, dirt under the fingernails and all that stuff." He says: "Home is still London though, and I never tire of the place. There's always something going on."

Ibiza has changed a lot in the past 40 years, but the clubbers don't bother me. We're well away from that scene, and I rather like the idea of the young enjoying themselves. I was going to a different type of nightclub when I was their age, but time doesn't stand still, does it? Let them have their fun while they can."

Leslie started his career at the age of 11, playing a wolf in Peter Pan. And he seems to have specialised in playing wolfish cats ever since. Memorably, he was Lt Phillips in The Navy Lark on BBC Radio, which ran for two decades and was the longest-running comedy radio programme in the world. "People STILL remember it fondly," he says, "and I still get people coming up to me in the street asking me to do the catchphrase 'left hand down a bit'."

Tiresome? Not a bit of it. It's very nice that people think of me. If I've brought a bit of laughter into someone's life, then I'm very pleased."

He's neatly dressed in a dark blue blazer and black slacks, with a vaguely regimental tie beautifully knotted. He looks slightly frail, but the blue eyes twinkle and there's no sign at all of age slowing him down.

Leslie served in the Durham Light Infantry in the war - "the biggest, toughest bunch of fighting people you could ever imagine," he says with a delicious grin, "and the best blokes in the world. I am very proud of them and I go to reunions when I can. I have incredible memories of their loyalty and courage. I came out as a lieutenant, and I had what is described as 'a good war'. Chiefly because I was one of the lucky ones, and survived! Thousands did not, and that's the pity of it. But I'm proud to say I did my bit."

The suave, urbane Leslie is much remembered for his trademark warm, velvet voice, with a hint of hunky-dumky saying 'Helloo' in the Doctor and Carry On films.

And despite all his serious roles, in *Take a Girl Like You* he played an elderly aristocrat with a distinctly naughty sexual past. Leslie laughs: "Lord Archie Edgerton is a man who has grown old, but who has never quite grown up. He's losing his faculties a bit."

but in his mind he's still trying to cling on to his youth. He thinks he can still cut it with the ladies. And if you as much as mutter 'perfect casting', I'll sue you!"

Leslie is one of the great kings of voice-overs for TV commercials. "Don't ask me to count them all," he says, "I've done thousands."

And he also has business interests in a retail shopping outfit in south Wales. "I do keep busy," he says, "and long may that continue. I don't like sitting still. I've done it all, really. I can remember doing films in Hollywood such as *Les Girls*, with my dear Kay Kendall, and making dozens of British black and whiteres. I've never wanted to live anywhere but here, really, and I've never wanted to be in any other time than the right now. I am still learning, and I am still enjoying. Now you can't get better than that, can you?" ■

*'I've never wanted to live anywhere but here, really, and I've never wanted to be in any other time than the right now'*

years is the skill everyone brings to the film - the lighting and set men are amazing, and the effects will take your breath away. It's simply incredible, and I dread to think what it all costs. The Harry Potter film contains just about every British actor you can think of. My grandchildren are suddenly impressed with their old Grandpa, because he's going to be in something that they can relate to. Generally, they are very laid back about what I do - this time they're getting interested.

"I think that the Potter author, J.K. Rowling, has tapped a wonderful vein, and she's extremely creative. Long may she go on writing because there might be sequels, giving more work to this elderly actor. Maybe being involved with Tomb Raider and Harry Potter will give me credibility with another generation. That would be nice."

**W**HEN NOT in his Ibiza home, Leslie lives in Maida Vale in North London.

"The Ibiza house has been an ongoing saga of restoration and building," he says, "and I just love it all. It's the Leslie Phillips equivalent of Randolph Hearst's San Simeon in California. I cannot resist putting things in, rescuing old artefacts and incorporating them into the design. "I am still a dreadfully nosy person when I'm walking around in London - I always have a quick look in the skips that I see on the street. The precious things that people throw out - I've 'liberated' quite few over the years and used them elsewhere. Okay, I'll confess it, I am a dreadful hoarder and collector of other people's cast-offs. But I've spent a small fortune at auctions and car boot sales as well. One man's rubbish is another man's





If you could bank a  
**smell**  
what would it be?



LESLIE PHILLIPS    LLOYDS TSB BANK advert

2001



# THE EMBASSY LARK

Here is the first Embassy Lark log from the NLAS. The titles printed below are considered to be a fair appraisal of the storyline. Without doubt shows are traded with alternative names. However, the listing and the first line scheduled below is **The Navy Lark Appreciation Society's** agreed nomenclature. If you are able to assist in any way in determining further details about the series please get in contact. Now we have an excellent audio archive, our next task is to learn more about the show, its production team and the cast. Photos, biographies and CVs would be particularly helpful.

Bored with TV? Busy yourself and help the Society get to grips with improving its archive by using whatever means are at your disposal to find anything at all about our audio heritage.



## Series 1

1966.03.15 THE NEW AMBASSADOR  
1966.03.22 OVERSEAS ECONOMY  
1966.03.29 SECURITY  
1966.04.05 THE PRINCESS  
1966.04.12 NATIONAL GRUMPSHRNOG WEEK  
1966.04.19 A TRIP TO LONDON  
1966.04.26 THE SPY  
1966.05.03 THE TRATVIAN JAILS  
1966.05.10 THE TRATVIAN STATE CASINO  
1966.05.17 THE HYDRO ELECTRIC SCHEME  
1966.05.24 THE PARTY  
1966.05.31 MR PETTIGREW'S PROMOTION  
1966.06.07 THE TURKISH AMBASSADOR

the Englishman abroad is never more amusing  
"for most of us, abroad is the place where they will drive....."  
"hello vicar, having the night off?"  
I say if you're terribly impressed by my.....  
"Stone the crows, I could belt my tonsils for this lark...."  
my word they weren't fools when they asked me to do this.....  
"if anybody listening is not covered by those categories, whatcha"  
"My word, this is a posh sort of do isn't it?"  
...Miss Perkins of Paddington Green (sings) HELLO POLLY!  
...and if the Mater is listening "Hello Mumsie".....  
"...and let's face it, listening to that alone was far better..",  
...and if the minister of productions is listening.....  
whatever appointment you hold in your own occupational field....

## Series 2

1967.01.17 THE GRAND ORDER  
1967.01.24 THE WINE FESTIVAL,  
1967.01.31 ECONOMIC PROBLEMS  
1967.02.07 THE BIRTHDAY SURPRISE  
1967.02.14 A PARKING PROBLEM  
1967.02.21 TANIA NOSTROVA  
1967.02.28 THE OIL RIG  
1967.03.07 THE LAUNCHING  
1967.03.14 THE MISSING DOCUMENT  
1967.03.21 STUDENTS' EXCHANGE  
1967.03.28 THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR  
1967.04.04 POWER CUTS  
1967.04.11 THE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL,  
1967.04.18 THE WEEKEND

...and after that dollop of diction that should put my face on...  
...now if I don't say another word the BBC has had its moneys...  
...and my word it's amazing what a short shot of sherry before...  
"...by jove, I'm an impressive little noise aren't I?",  
"...and if you didn't realise it, that was Ron raising and r...",  
"...by jove, if words were precious gems, you have just copped...",  
"...that's better, no one sleeps when Ron is chatting...",  
...follow that if you've got the puff to do it.....  
...and if anyone has started to sup their soup while Ron is spout,  
...and those of you who wish to purchase my new LP, "Yestertime..",  
...and how's that for a platitudeness pomeraneous introduction...  
"...er hello general, got guard duty once again; well done!",  
If there is a doctor in the house, I think I've just done my...  
...and that little lot came to you through VHF....

## Series 3

1968.03.05 THE KING'S HOSTESS  
1968.03.12 A QUESTION OF CONVENIENCE  
1968.03.19 SIR JEREMY GOES ON HOLIDAY  
1968.03.26 UP THE POLE  
1968.04.02 THE LEAK  
1968.04.09 THE CHINA FIGURES  
1968.04.16 SUB: IT PHILLIPS DROPS IN  
1968.04.23 THE GMIT REGALIA  
1968.04.30 THE PICNIC  
1968.05.07 THE EMBASSY PARTY  
1968.05.14 MR PETTIGREW'S LIFE STORY  
1968.05.21 THE TEMPORARY BRITISH EMBASSY  
1968.05.28 AN EVERY DAY STORY  
1968.06.04 THE DAY OFF  
1968.06.11 THE FREEZE

...amazing what an early career sitting on my Dad's cart does for,  
When Michael DeMorgan announces a programme nobody goes to sleep,  
"Oye you, loudmouth! Shouting the odds a bit aren't you?",  
Oye you ..... tonsils! Hang on a minute. Cop hold of that...  
Oye you ..... tonsils! I've got something of yours...  
OYE! you at the back! Whats your game? you can't come in here,  
"Once more into the breach dear friends, the curfew tolls....",  
...now who'll have a bottle of de Morgan's meritorious cure-all?,  
this is Michael de Morgan your merry mischievous madcap mama...  
this is Michael de Morgan for better or worse announcing this...  
once upon a time there was a beautiful blonde...  
"well, that's classified most of you lot into your proper social",  
be it known to all presently assembled...  
here it is folks; the moment you have been waiting for...  
a short poem by Michael de Morgan!



## Series 1

commenced:

Tuesday 15 Mar 1966 7.30 Light Programme

1/1 (15/3/1966)

### THE NEW AMBASSADOR

the Englishman abroad is never more amusing

Frank Thornton  
Derek Francis  
Francis De Wolfe  
Charlotte Mitchell

Henry Pettigrew, First Secretary British Embassy  
H.E. Sir Jeremy Creighton-Buller K.C.M.G.  
British Ambassador to Travia  
H.M. King Hildebrande III, King of Travia  
Lady Daphne Creighton-Buller

Michael Spice  
Fraser Kerr

Mr Simpkins, Third Secretary, British Embassy  
Mr Grubb

announcer Robin Boyle

produced by Alistair Scott Johnson

Recorded at the Paris Theatre, Lower Regent St. London SW1

GUEST APPEARANCES:

1/2 (22/3/1966)

### OVERSEAS ECONOMY

"for most of us, abroad is the place where they will drive....."

Richard Caldicott  
David Fallon

Minister for Overseas Establishment  
Chinese Ambassador

announcer John Kerl

1/3 (29/3/1966)

### SECURITY

"hello vicar, having the night off?"

Derek Francis  
Ian Walters

700 British Security Services  
Colonel Soviet Secret Police

announcer Ronald Fletcher

1/4 (5/4/1966)

### THE PRINCESS

I say if you're terribly impressed by my.....

David Fallon

Mr Barnes

1/5 (12/4/1966)

### NATIONAL GRUMPSPHNOG WEEK

"Stone the crows, I could belt my tonsils for this lark...."

Ronnie Barker  
Stephen Murray  
Laurie Wyman  
David Fallon

Commander Bell / Able Seaman Johnson  
Lieutenant Murray  
Able Seaman Tiddy  
Chinese Ambassador

1/6 (19/4/1966)

### A TRIP TO LONDON

my word they weren't fools when they asked me to do this.....

David Fallon

Australian Pilot

1/7 (26/4/1966)

### THE SPY

"if anybody listening is not covered by those categories, whatcha"

Francis De Wolfe  
David Fallon  
Jan Waters

Minister of the Interior, Government of Travia  
Sergeant Carl Travian State Police  
Jane

1/8 (3/5/1966)

### THE TRATVIAN JAILS

"My word, this is a posh sort of do isn't it?"

Michael Spice  
David Fallon

Harold Symes  
Minister of Information, Travian Government

1/9 (10/5/1966)

### THE TRATVIAN STATE CASINO

...Miss Perkins of Paddington Green (sings) HELLO POLLY!

Richard Caldicott  
David Fallon  
Michael Spice

Military Attache, British Embassy  
Chinese Ambassador  
Manager Travian State Casino







## Series 2

commenced: 17 January 1967 9.00 Light Programme

Frank Thornton

Derek Francis

Francis De Wolfe

Charlotte Mitchell

Anthony Sagar

Michael Spice

David Valor

Henry Pettigrew, First Secretary British Embassy

H.E. Sir Jeremy Creighton-Buller K.C.M.G.  
British Ambassador to Travtia

H.M. King Hildebrande III, King of Travtia

Lady Daphne Creighton-Buller

Edward Pomeroy

Mr Simpkins, Third Secretary, British Embassy

Mr Ginsburgh

produced by Alistair Scott Johnson

Recorded at the Paris Theatre, Lower Regent St. London SW1

## GUEST APPEARANCES:

2/2 (24/1/1967)

Richard Caldicott

David Fallon

Michael Spice

David Valor

Anthony Sagar

Minister for Overseas Establishment

Chinese Ambassador

Serge Ivanoff, Russian Ambassador

Wong Hi Wong Chinese Ambassador

Edward Pomeroy

2/3 (31/1/1967)

Anthony Sagar

Michael Spice

Aldo Noseleff PM of the Royal Travtian Government

Boris Rudmusk Foreign Secretary of the Royal

Tratvian Government

2/4 (7/2/1967)

Anthony Sagar

Michael Spice

David Valor

Edward Pomeroy

Mr Simpkins,

Blasted Sidney, Chauffeur

2/5 (14/2/1967)

Anthony Sagar

Michael Spice

David Valor

Laurie Wyman

David Fallon

Aldo Noseleff PM of the Royal Travtian Government  
Boris Rudmusk Foreign Secretary of the Royal  
Tratvian Government  
Yeminou Chancellor of the Exchequer

Able Seaman Tiddy

Chinese Ambassador

2/6 (21/2/1967)

Charlotte Mitchell

Anthony Sagar

Michael Spice

David Valor

Tania Nostrova

Edward Pomeroy

Serge Ivanoff, Russian Ambassador

Mr Fosdyke

2/7 (28/2/1967)

Francis De Wolfe

Anthony Sagar

Michael Spice

David Valor

Sir John Gripe

Mr Pomeroy

Mr Simpkins,

Blasted Sidney, Chauffeur

2/8 (7/3/1967)

Anthony Sagar

Michael Spice

David Valor

Mr Pomeroy

Mr Simpkins,

Blasted Sidney, Chauffeur

2/9 (14/3/1967)

Charlotte Mitchell

David Valor

Anthony Sagar

Michael Spice

Martha Peebles

Captain Roger Farquaharson

Sergeant Barker

Mr Simpkins

2/10 (21/3/1967)

Anthony Sagar

Michael Spice

David Valor

Edward Pomeroy

Mr Simpkins,

Cromwell Gladstone Farningham Frogmore

2/11 (28/3/1967)

Francis De Wolfe

Anthony Sagar

David Fallon

Michael Spice

Tratvian Doctor

Mr Pomeroy

Tratvian Cinema Manager

Mr Simpkins,



2/12 (4/4/1967)

Anthony Sagar  
Michael Spice

David Valor

Aldo Noseleff PM of the Royal Tratvian Government  
Boris Rudmusk Foreign Secretary of the Royal  
Tratvian Government  
Chancellor of the Exchequer

2/13 (11/4/1967)

Anthony Sagar  
Michael Spice  
David Valor

Mr Pomeroy  
Mr Simkins  
Surveyor of the Tratvian Ministry of Works

2/14 (18/4/1967)

Anthony Sagar  
Michael Spice  
David Valor

Pomeroy  
Serge Ivanoff, Russian Ambassador  
Chinese Ambassador

## VHF and Wavelengths: page 2

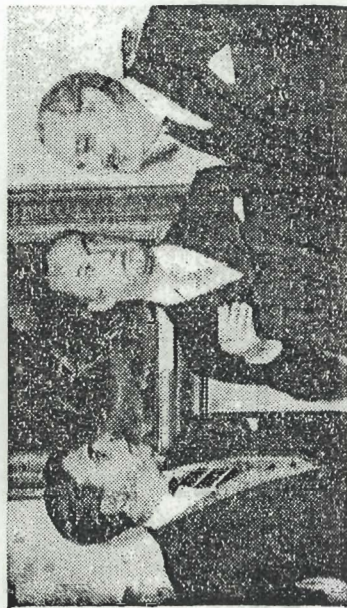
# The Embassy Lark

Francis de Wolff  
plays the  
part of  
Hildebrande III  
of Tratvia



LIGHT  
9.0

The Editor has received the following letter from an address at Aeolian Hall, New Bond Street, London, in connection with the new series of *The Embassy Lark* which begins this evening.



## At Home with the Embassy Lark



HIS EXCELLENCY and the staff of Her Britannic Majesty's Embassy to the Kingdom of Tratvia, having opened their doors on the Light on Tuesdays, are now at home for a second hearing on Thursday evenings—and still as set about as ever.

HOME  
9.30

SIR,

I have been given to understand that the BBC are about to perpetrate another series of affronts to my Government and country under the heading of *The Embassy Lark*.

Whereas we naturally hold the British Ambassador to Tratvia, Sir Jeremy Crichton-Buller, and his First Secretary, Henry Pettigrew, in the highest esteem, I am instructed by His Majesty King Hildebrande III to protest in the strongest possible terms on the scurrilous content of these programmes as it reflects on the honour and competence of His Majesty and his virile, forward-looking Government.

In the past it has been suggested that His Majesty's solution to any financial crisis is to do the Diplomatic Corps in general, and the British Embassy in particular, rotten; that his diplomatic *démarches* are blackmail pure and simple; and that the carefully and painstakingly prepared Plans of the Royal Tratvian Government are little more than a meaningless concept clad in the splendour of overwhelming verbiage.

And when all this is accompanied by the vulgar laughter of the populace, you will readily appreciate how easy it was for us to set you up last time for such considerable damages that you were glad to settle out of court.

The Royal Tratvian Embassy confidently anticipates an even larger subscription to the national Exchequer if you do not heed this protest.

I have the honour to be, Sir,  
Your obedient servant  
(Name supplied)

Ambassador, Royal Tratvian Embassy, London



## Series 3

commenced:

Tuesday 5 March 1968 8.45 Radio 2

3/1 (5/3/1968)

### THE KING'S HOSTESS

..amazing what an early career sitting on my Dad's cart does for,

Frank Thornton

Henry Pettigrew, First Secretary British Embassy

Derek Francis

H.E. Sir Jeremy Creighton-Buller K.C.M.G

Francis De Wolfe

British Ambassador to Travia

Charlotte Mitchell

H.M. King Hildebrande III, King of Travia

Peter Stephens

Lady Daphne Creighton-Buller

Michael Spice

Mr Proudfoot

announcer

Mr Simpkins, Third Secretary, British Embassy

Michael De Morgan

produced by Alistair Scott Johnson

Recorded at the Paris Theatre, Lower Regent St. London SW1

### GUEST APPEARANCES:

3/2 (12/3/1968)

### A QUESTION OF CONVENIENCE

When Michael DeMorgan announces a programme nobody goes to sleep.

Peter Stephens

Mr Proudfoot

Michael Spice

Serge Ivanoff, Russian Ambassador

3/3 (19/3/1968)

### SIR JEREMY GOES ON HOLIDAY

"Oye you, loudmouth! Shouting the odds a bit aren't you?",

Francis De Wolfe

Lord Frogmore

Peter Stephens

Chinese Ambassador

Michael Spice

Mr Simpkins, / Hawkins (Lord Frogmore's Butler)

3/4(26/3/1968)

### UP THE POLE

Oye you ....? .... tonsils! Hang on a minute. Cop hold of that....

Peter Stephens

Chinese Ambassador

Michael Spice

Serge Ivanoff, Russian Ambassador

3/5 (2/4/1968)

### THE LEAK

Oye you ....? .... tonsils! I've got something of yours..

Michael Spice

Serge Ivanoff, Russian Ambassador

Peter Stephens

Chinese Ambassador

3/6 (9/4/1968)

### THE CHINA FIGURES

OYE! you at the back! Whats your game? you can't come in here,

Peter Stephens

Mr Proudfoot

Michael Spice

Mr Simpkins, Third Secretary, British Embassy

3/7 (16/4/1968)

### SUB LT PHILLIPS DROPS IN

"Once more into the breach dear friends, the curfew tolls....",

Michael Spice

Mr Simpkins, Mr Fosdyke

Leslie Phillips

Sub Lt. Phillips

Peter Stephens

Mr Proudfoot

3/8 (23/4/1968)

### THE GMIT REGALIA

.now who'll have a bottle of de Morgan's meritorious cure-all?,

Peter Stephens

Mr Proudfoot

Michael Spice

Mr Simpkins,

3/9 (30/4/1968)

### THE PICNIC

this is Michael de Morgan your merry mischevious madcap mama....,

Peter Stephens

Mr Proudfoot

Michael Spice

Mr Simpkins,

3/10 (7/5/1968)

### THE EMBASSY PARTY

this is Michael de Morgan for better or worse announcing this ..,

Peter Stephens

Mr Proudfoot

Michael Spice

Mr Simpkins,



# TUESDAY'S RADIO

PROGRAMME PAGES 38-40

## 3/11 (14/5/1968)

### MR PETTIGREW'S LIFE STORY

once upon a time there was a beautiful blonde....

Derek Francis  
Francis De Wolfe  
Head of Postings Foreign Office London  
Army Sergeant

## 3/12 (21/5/1968)

### THE TEMPORARY BRITISH EMBASSY

"well, that's classified most of you lot into your proper social",

Charlotte Mitchell  
Michael Spice  
Peter Stephens  
Martha  
Mr Simpkins,  
Captain Farqharon

## 3/13 (28/5/1968)

### AN EVERY DAY STORY

be it known to all presently assembled....

Peter Stephens  
Michael Spice  
Mr Proudfoot  
Mr Simpkins,

## 3/14 (4/6/1968)

### THE DAY OFF

here it is folks; the moment you have been waiting for....

Charlotte Mitchell  
Michael Spice  
Peter Stephens  
Martha  
Mr Simpkins,  
Mr Proudfoot

## 3/15 (11/6/1968)

### THE FREEZE

a short poem by Michael de Morgan..

Michael Spice  
Peter Stephens  
Mr Simpkins,  
Mr Proudfoot

## THE EMBASSY LARK



8.45

RADIO

2

I AM glad to report that our Ambassador to the Kingdom of Tratvia, Sir Jeremy Crichton Buller, and his First Secretary, Mr. Pettigrew, are still holding their own in their battle to survive to pensionable age in the Diplomatic Service. But it's not easy. The British Foreign Office expects the earth and will pay nothing for it. King Hildebrande of Tratvia expects the earth and will do nothing unless he gets it.

Our Embassy staff are left, therefore, with little but their native wit and a well-developed flair for improvisation with which to climb out of the muck. But they do it, again and again—fifteen times to be precise in the next few months.

ALASTAIR SCOTT JOHNSTON



The Ambassador (Derek Francis), his Lady (Charlotte Mitchell), and his First Secretary (Frank Thornton) arrive for another confrontation with the King



## MISSING SHOWS

#NO.	DATE	TITLE	OPENING LINES
01-02	05/04/59		In every large concern there are always day to day problems and headaches which often come from a variety of sources.
02-07	27/11/59		An Englishman is entitled to his own point of view and the right to express it freely. This applies whether it's a right rollicki
02-12	01/01/60	The Route March	There have been many books printed on the art of public speaking - including my own "Announcing for Announcers", Bod
02-14	15/01/60		Every day there are board meetings taking place at which monumental decisions have to be taken. Naturally, Admiralty ha
02-18	12/02/60		In everyone's life there is always a day of reckoning. Usually it's a Monday when you check the laundry they've let you hav
02-19	19/02/60		From time to time, even in the best run offices, one does have to do some work. To a man like our C.O. Lieutenant Comm
02-20	26/02/60		No matter what position you hold, an interview with one's superior can be very unnerving. Last time I asked the BBC for a
02-22	11/03/60		We all like going to parties. Last week all the announcers had one of those parties when everybody brings a bottle and we
02-23	18/03/60		It's always useful to meet one's superiors informally. I bumped into the Director General of the BBC today and we had a c
02-24	25/03/60		It's nice to get away from routine for a bit. Last week it was the announcers annual charabanc outing and we all went to Jo
02-Sp	05/11/60	Wrens Reunion at the Festival Hall	
03-08	21/12/60	50th Show Special for the Queen	Yes, this is the fiftieth show and my name is Robin Boyle. I mention these two things because after fifty weeks of being the
03-10	04/01/61		There are certain things every man's entitled to in life for they're his heritage. Things like a flaming great rocket from his e
03-11	11/01/61		The trouble with relatives is that you don't get a chance to choose them. They're dead lumber. I've got a certain maiden a
03-12	18/01/61		They say that it's cheaper by rail and a neighbour of mine has proved for himself that it is - mind you, he happens to be an
03-13	25/01/61		The great out door fresh air life is supposed to help in preventing colds. All I know is that every time I do any gardening I c
03-14	01/02/61		Like many of you, Mrs Boyle and I are quite naturally house proud and very often we sit back in our armchairs and talk ov
03-20	15/03/61		Yes, it's time for the crew of H.M.S. Troutbridge to go on leave again. The time when the hearts of their families are filled
04-01	15/09/61	Returning from Leave	Do you ever get one of those days when everything goes right? You get a seat on the bus, you put a bob on an outsider a
04-03	29/09/61		Now there are several things that can occur with boats. You can mess about in them, you can be messed about by them o
04-17	05/01/62	The Invitation	I always find those official printed invitations to functions pretty baffling. For one thing, why do those gold edged cards alw
04-18	12/01/62		One of the snags about being in the Navy is that you are liable to be sent on what is called an exercise. It's anyone's bet a
04-Sp	25/12/62	Christmas Special for Antarctica	
05#09	22/03/63	TV Lark 9	Many of you will have heard the old adage.....
07-Sp	25/12/65	Christmas Special for Antarctica	

## INCOMPLETE SHOWS

#NO.	DATE	TITLE	OPENING LINES	TAPE QUALITY
03-01	02/11/60	In Portsmouth for a refit	Considering the number of glancing blows poor-break near start/end missing	
03-02	09/11/60	Refitting Ebenezer Pertwee's Tug	Gardening is just the job for a fit man, part OK - short break at about 5 min - end credits part missing.	
03-03	16/11/60	Sea trials and the Popadom	We're all a bit helpless when we meet the OK-Break near start - end credits missing	
03-05	30/11/60	The Explosive Biscuits	Teaching methods at school seem to have poor at start/break at 25min/otherwise OK/end credits missing	
04-21	02/02/62	The Sinking of the Bubble Car	Now that Sub Lieutenant Phillips has been Good/opening credits & a few words missing at start)	
05#02	01/02/63	TV Lark 2: The Prestige Show	Last week the Troutbridge Television Serv OK - low - some short breaks, bangs & crackles - opening credits & start missin	
05-02	12/04/63	100th Edition	Although they may not realise it, ever since Good but end missing	
07-12	26/09/65	The Potameyland Training Exercise	Now then - about this saucy Lillian Gish c/a bit murred; most of opening announcement missing; end credits missing	
11-12	15/03/70	Mr Murray is Married	Most of us think about marriage sometime poorish-fuzzy-end missing	
15-05	07/12/75	Black is Beautiful	Stone me! The "Naval News" is getting po OK - a few words missing at start/end credits missing	
15-08	28/12/75	Horrible Horace Comes aboard	Captain Povey's office! Captain Povey spe Good- but opening credits & a few words missing at start - end credits missing	